

Program of the TIMS Midterm Tour in Bulgaria

- Tour 1: Arrival 23 September - Tour 24-30 September - Departure 1 October
- Tour 2: Arrival 9 October - Tour 10-16 October - Departure 17 October

Day 1

Arrival and check in at Akord Hotel. The underground/metro can be used from Sofia airport to the hotel.

Day 2

Transfer from Sofia to Kalofer.

Information about the town of Kalofer: <https://bulgariatravel.org/town-of-kalofer/>

A visit to Alexander Tsvyatkov's house (Sandeva House) where a fulling mill has been preserved for generations by his family who also own two corn mills.



Travel to Plovdiv.

Information about the city of Plovdiv: <https://bulgariatravel.org/plovdiv-city/>

Day 3

A visit to Egrek. In the village there are 5 working corn mills, which are still being used by the villagers. Along with the more modern houses, preserved buildings from the mid-19th century can be seen with the typical stone masonry and slate roofs. The chimneys of these old houses are still preserved in their original brickwork. People living in some of the houses today are decedents of the first owners.



Travel to Zlatograd

Day 4

Visit to the water facilities in Zlatograd.

Information about Zlatograd: <https://bulgariatravel.org/zlatograd/>

<https://eac-zlatograd.com/en/about-eac/vuntsova-vodenitsa>



Travel and visit to the village of **Shumnitsa**, Kirkovo Municipality

There is a preserved mill in the village, dating back to the end of the 19th century. The authentic building in its original shape houses milling equipment from that period. There is another mill down on the river. It has not been well preserved and some parts of it have collapsed. Both mills are registered as cultural monuments.

As in many remote corners in the Rodopi Mountains, here also there are old houses with original stonework, slate roofs and chimneys. A cobbled street meanders through the small old houses. It was part of an ancient road connecting the inland with the Aegean Thrace region. Some of the houses have been listed as monuments of culture. There are three bridges spanning the small river crossing the village. The old bridges are believed to have been built in Roman times.



Travel to Stara Zagora

Day 5

Stara Zagora

<https://starazagora.love/en/>

Stara Zagora has a history of almost eight millennia. The earliest settlements date back to the Neolithic age. During the Roman period, when the town's name was Augusta Trayana, it was one of the most prosperous centers of the Thrace Province. In late Antiquity the town's name was Beroe. It became a cradle of the young Christian faith and a Bishop's seat. In 812, it was entered in the territory of the state of Bulgaria. In 1372, it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. Today Stara Zagora is a big city and a regional center.

A visit to the neolithic settlement

<https://www.rimstz.eu/en/prehistory-department>

A visit to the town of Kazanlak

<https://bulgariatravel.org/the-town-of-kazanlak/>

A visit to the Museum of Roses

http://www.muzei-kazanlak.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=83&lang=en

A visit to an authentic workshop for cold-pressed unrefined walnut oil, owned by Ivan Yonkov. The building dates back to the first half of the 19th century.



Travel to Gabrovo

Day 6

Gabrovo

Gabrovo is a picturesque small town in the very center of Bulgaria with a unique atmosphere and legends to tell. It is located on the banks of the river Yantra and is the longest town in Bulgaria; it stretches a total of 25 km. One of the legends explaining its creation is the story of Racho the Blacksmith. He was a wandering master blacksmith who looked for work in far away lands and one day he stopped to rest under a beautiful old hornbeam tree (“gabar” in Bulgarian), hence the name Gabrovo. There are many other stories explaining the origin of the town’s name, but historians agree that the town had existed before the Ottoman conquest.

The earliest mention of the town has been discovered in a document issued in 1704. This official request for repair works on a church in the town states that the local Bulgarian population had been worshipping there for many generations. Such a request for reconstruction and renovation could only have been made for a place of worship that had existed prior to the conquest, i.e. prior to 1393.

The town of Gabrovo is also famous as the Capital of Laughter. It is the home to the unique Museum of Humor <https://www.humorhouse.bg/enindex.html>

The most interesting place to visit in Gabrovo is the regional ethnographic museum <https://en.etar.bg/> which is an open-air collection of authentic old workshops for traditional crafts.

Visit to the regional ethnographic open-air museum ETAR





Day 7

A visit to a site managed by the Veliko Tarnovo Regional Museum of History in the town of Voneshta Voda with a corn and a saw mill:

<https://www.borbabg.com/2021/10/27/arhitekturno-etnografskiyat-kompleks-osenarska-reka-kray-vonesha-voda-vklyuchen-v-poznavatelen-tur-na-tims/>



Yalovo Winery: <https://vinarnayalovo.com/?lang=en>

Day 8

A visit to the regional ethnographic open-air museum ETAR and corn mill in village Potoka near to Etar museum

